**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for preventing or delaying catheter-based revascularization in patients suffering from coronary artery disease and in need of such treatment ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of administering a cholesterol lowering agent in an amount effective to cause an aggressive lowering of LDL cholesterol.

Claim 2 (original): A method according to Claim 1 wherein the cholesterol lowering agent is an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor.

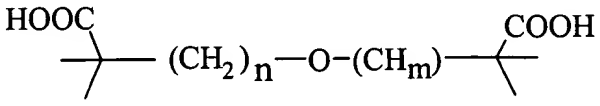
Claim 3 (original): A method according to Claim 2 wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from atorvastatin, mevastatin, cerivastatin, simvastatin, fluvastatin, dalvastatin, pravastatin, and lovastatin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to Claim 3 wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor administered is atorvastatin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 5 (original): The method according to Claim 4 wherein the amount of atorvastatin administered is from about 50 mg/day to about 150 mg/day.

Claim 6 (original): The method according to Claim 5 wherein atorvastatin is administered at a dose of about 80 mg/day.

Claim 7 (original): A method according to Claim 1 wherein the cholesterol lowering agent is a carboxyalkyl ether of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 8 (original): The method according to Claim 7 wherein the cholesterol lowering agent administered is 6,6′-oxybis-(2,2-dimethylhexanoic acid), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 9 (original): A method according to Claim1 wherein the cholesterol lowering agent is selected from a fibrate.

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Claim 10 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 9 wherein the cholesterol lowering agent is selected from clofibrate, gemfibrozil, fenofibrate, ciprofibrate, and bezafibrate.